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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Thailand:* draft resolution

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014 and 70/205 of 22 December 2015, and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

Recalling further that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Convention provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Taking note with appreciation of the high-level signature ceremony for the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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Climate Change, on 22 April 2016,[2] and the high-level event for ratification or acceptance, on 21 September 2016,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority for developing countries, that financing for adaptation is critical and that securing the continued role of the Adaptation Fund in the pre-2020 and post-2020 periods is welcomed and should be enhanced,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016,

Acknowledging that developed country parties to the Convention should continue to take the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, while developing country parties should continue to enhance their mitigation efforts and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging also that the Convention is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways, consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] the outcomes of the thirteenth to twenty-first sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the third to eleventh sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey,

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[2] FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

from 9 to 13 May 2011,[7] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8] the Mauritius Declaration[9] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[10] and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[11]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[12]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Taking note of the Green Climate Fund and its successful and timely initial resource mobilization process, making it the largest dedicated climate fund, and its disbursement of funds in supporting developing country parties to the Convention,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

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[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[8] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[12] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Africa,[13] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[14] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Welcomes* the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of France in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015, and in that regard the signing and ratifying parties welcome the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2] which is aimed at strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that doing so would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

3. *Expresses appreciation to* all the parties that have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement and deposited their instruments of ratification, expects its universal implementation by those parties, and in this regard welcomes the forthcoming entry into force of the Agreement on 4 November 2016 and urges the parties that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Agreement and deposit their instruments of ratification;

4. *Recalls* in particular that each party to the Paris Agreement shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve and that parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions;

5. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19,[15] to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[15] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Paris in 2015,[16] and looks forward to the outcome of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the twelfth

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[14] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[15] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.
[16] A/71/216, sect. I.

session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

7. *Also takes note* of decision 2/CP.20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twentieth session, held in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014, on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts,[17] and decision 1/CP.21 in which the Paris Agreement was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twenty-first session;

8. *Recognizes* the substantial risks posed by climate change to the oceans and marine ecosystems, and in this regard welcomes the convening of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 70/226 of 22 December 2015 and 70/303 of 9 September 2016, to be held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017;

9. *Also recognizes* the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage;

10. *Reaffirms* that developed country parties to the Convention shall provide financial resources to assist developing country parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention;

11. *Notes* that each party to the Paris Agreement shall, when communicating their nationally determined contribution, provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding according to relevant decisions;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Morocco of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016;

13. *Looks forward* to the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in 2017;

14. *Encourages* United Nations specialized organizations and agencies to support the efforts of parties to strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation to climate change, taking into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework;[18]

15. *Urges* States to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues;

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[17] See FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2.

[18] FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.16, sect. II, paras. 11-35.

16. *Welcomes* the appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and thanks the previous Executive Secretary for her efforts and hard work;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to paragraph 96 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[12] to submit an action plan for the Secretariat that will be designed to work within existing procurement rules and policies aimed at integrating sustainable development practices into its operations and facilities management, building on existing efforts and promoting cost-effectiveness, and in accordance with legislative frameworks, including financial rules and regulations, while maintaining accountability to Member States, with the specific goal of a United Nations that does not, through its operations or facilities management, have a negative impact on the climate, as soon as possible, or by 2020, if practicable;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019;

19. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.